GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1139
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
COURT OF INQUIRY FOR COAL MINES MISHAPS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have instituted a court of inquiry into the coal mine mishap at Godavarikhani in which 17 miners lost their lives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the report;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government for the safety of the workers of coal mines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR)

(a): A decision has been taken to constitute the Court of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of sitting Judge of the High Court to enquire into the Godavarikhani Coal Mine Accident.

(b): Notification constituting the Court of Inquiry under section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952 is being issued accordingly

(c) & (d): Does not arise.

(e): The safety, welfare and health of workers employed in mines are regulated by the Mines Act, 1952 and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The compliance of these provisions to ensure safety of workers is the responsibility of the mine managements. The Directorate General of Mines Safetyenforces and oversees the compliance of statutory provisions to minimize accidents. Besides the legislative measures, initiatives are also taken for promotion of safety awareness amongst the workers and mine managements by the Government through following measures:-

(a) Conference on safety in mines.
(b) Self-regulation by managements.
(c) Workers` participation in safety management.
(d) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels.
(e) Training of work persons
(f) Observance of safety weeks and safety campaign.
(g) National Safety Awards.